

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-20 in the application. In a previous response, the Applicants amended Claims 1, 6, 8, 13-14 and 19. In the present preliminary amendment, the Applicants have amended Claims 1, 6, 8, 13-14 and 19. Support for the amended claims can be found in paragraphs 31-33 and Figure 3 of the original specification. The Applicants have not amended, canceled or added any other claims in the preliminary amendment. Accordingly, Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,859,550 to Brandt in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,268,753 to Sandusky. As recognized by the Examiner, the cited combination does not teach or suggest a digital feedback delay line having a plurality of taps cascaded from an input to an output with each of the taps having a fixed delay as recited in amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 14. (See Examiner's Action, page 2, and the absence of a rejection of dependent Claims 6 and 13.) Thus, the cited combination of Brandt and Sandusky fails to teach or suggest each element of amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 14 and, as such, does not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness of Claims 1, 8 and 14 and Claims dependent thereon. Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14-20, therefore, are not obvious in view of Brandt and Sandusky. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw §103(a) rejection respect to Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14-20 and allow issuance thereof.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brandt in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,025,745 to Lee. As recognized by the Examiner, the cited combination does not teach or suggest a digital feedback delay line having a plurality of taps cascaded from an input to an output with each of the taps having a fixed delay as recited in amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 14. (See Examiner's Action, page 5, and the absence of a rejection of dependent Claims 6 and 13.) Thus, the cited combination of Brandt and Lee fails to teach or suggest each element of amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 14 and, as such, does not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness of Claims 1, 8 and 14 and Claims dependent thereon. Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14-20, therefore, are not obvious in view of Brandt and Lee. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw §103(a) rejection respect to Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14-20 and allow issuance thereof.

III. Rejection of Claims 1-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brandt in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,075,398 to Furman. As discussed above, Brandt does not teach or suggest a digital feedback delay line having a plurality of taps cascaded from an input to an output with each of the taps having a fixed delay as recited in amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 14. To teach a plurality of taps cascaded from an input to an output, the Examiner cites Furman. (See Examiner's Action, page 8.) Furman does not teach or suggest, however, a digital feedback delay line having a plurality of taps cascaded from an input to an

Appl. No. 09/977,045

Reply to Examiner's Action dated 08/24/2005

output with each of the taps having a fixed delay and tap selection logic for delivering a single signal to activate one of the plurality of taps and thereby insert a corresponding delay into the PLL whereby the corresponding delay is capable of including fixed delays associated with multiple of the plurality of taps as recited in amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 14. On the contrary, Furman teaches a decoder 108 that translates an input control signal into a plurality of signals with each of the plurality of signals controlling a multiplexer and thereby adding to the period of an output clock signal. (See column 4, lines 42-49; column 7, line 48 to column 8, line 22; and Figures 1-2 and 4-5.) Thus, Furman employs multiple control signals to insert a delay from multiple multiplexers instead of using a single signal to activate one tap and thereby insert a corresponding delay capable of including fixed delays associated with multiple taps. Furman, therefore, does not teach or suggest delivering a single signal to activate one of the plurality of taps and thereby insert a corresponding delay into a PLL whereby the corresponding delay is capable of including fixed delays associated with multiple of a plurality of taps as recited in amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 14.

Thus, the cited combination of Brandt and Furman fails to teach or suggest each element of amended independent Claims 1, 8 and 14 and, as such, does not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness of Claims 1, 8 and 14 and Claims dependent thereon. Claims 1-18 and 20, therefore, are not obvious in view of Brandt and Furman. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §103(a) rejection with respect to Claims 1-18 and 20 and allow issuance thereof.

Appl. No. 09/977,045

Reply to Examiner's Action dated 08/24/2005


IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-20.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, credits or overpayments to Deposit Account 08-2395.

Respectfully submitted,

HITT GAINES, PC



J. Joe Justiss
Registration No. 48,981

Dated: 11/22/05

P.O. Box 832570
Richardson, Texas 75083
(972) 480-8800